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Raphidostegium
Rhacomitrium aciculare
Scorpidium scorpioides
Sematophyllum recurvans
Sphagnum
Stereodon imponens
Patientiae
reptile
Thelia
Thuidium delicatulum
paludosum
scitum
Tortella caespitosa
tortuosa
Tortula muralis
Ulota americana
crispa
Webera sessilis
Weisia viridula

NEW YORK

A FREAK OF NATURE

BY O. A. FARWELL

While walking through Algonac, Michigan, I observed a peculiar freak of nature which may prove of interest to readers of TORREYA. Two trees of *Populus alba* were growing side by



FIG. 1. *Populus alba.* "Siamese Twins."

side, the lower parts in close contact, and were located on a residential corner lot. The freak consists of a small branch, eight or nine inches in diameter, of one tree piercing the trunk of the other, completely passing through and showing on the

other side; the branch passes through the trunk a little to one side of its center, bridging the space between the two trees. The branch extended several feet beyond the pierced trunk but ultimately died. Two photographs were taken just after the pruning of the tree had been accomplished and in the one reproduced on page 115 the ladder used in the operation is seen still resting against the bole of the tree. The butt is four inches in diameter and appears to be emerging from both the bole and its branch. The probable explanation of this condition is that when both trees were young, a branch of one crossed a branch of the other, resting firmly in the axil or crotch formed by the bole and its branch; the friction caused by the natural growth of the parts involved, assisted by winds and storms, probably wore away the barks until the cambium layers were reached, when a union of these tissues took place resulting ultimately in completely covering the intruding branch with wood and bark of the other tree, bringing about the present appearance which might be likened unto that of "Siamese Twins." This process resulted in the gradual strangulation, cessation of growth, and death of that part of the branch beyond the tree; the other part or "bridge" continued its growth and its union with the tree is so perfect that its bark is as normally continuous with that of the pierced trunk as with that of the parent tree.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY.
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AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER BY GRONOVIUS

BY HELEN A. CHOATE

This letter from Gronovius to John Bartram, the original of which was recently acquired and is now in the historical collection of the botanical library of Smith College, seems never to have been published. Both because of the light it throws on the current botanical life of that time, and as showing something of the relations then existing between scientific men of Europe and